

his daily ^{long} ~~work~~? And how he ^{was} ~~was~~ buried, his grave
duly marked by funeral Irish jinks. Now in
the Duke's bedroom there was the narrow bunk-bed
on which he always slept; & when a ^{close} friend
asked him why he used a bed of which the
warms room to ^{be} ~~was~~ ^{because} ~~he~~ ^{he} said, "When one
begins to turn in at night it is time to get up -
~~unpleasant experience!~~ ~~to know nothing of~~
~~the pleasant night~~

Now is the tennis court, a riding school
before his time, which the Duke converted to
its present use, & when he ^{was accustomed to} ~~would~~ play with ^{amused}
others, his sons' tutor, Mr. Wagner, after visiting
him at Brighton, & to write, Mr. Wagner writes,
"his Grace & I were, perhaps, more equally matched
than men usually are, & hence the Duke often,
I might almost say invariably, sent to ask
me, whether I was disposed to play at tennis
with him. On one occasion I remember
when made a chance, back-handed, violent
return of the ball, which was so rapid & forcing
that he could not get out of its way. It struck
him on the side. I jumped over the net & expressed
my regret, secretly wishing that I, & not he, had
received the blow. He rubbed the place, & referred
to a custom in India of rubbing for a variety
of ills. He then resumed the game, & would
not leave off till he had played out match."

Every anecdote & the picked up about the Duke
has been public property for many years, but
you recall the old stories with fresh interest
here on the spot, & wish there were more of them;
or rather you help wish, ungratefully, that there
had been more of the lovable quips & cracks

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but he made the best of it, labouring but to well
doubt should find it a better thing than he did.
Therefore he laid out ~~much~~ ^{much} of the rents
which his Hampshire property brought in, in
draining, chalking, & otherwise improving the land,
in rebuilding & putting into complete repair
every farm & cottage in the estate; and this, "I do
not of considerations for future Dukes of Wellington,
I am a rich man, because I am my pay as
Commander-in-Chief, & hold other offices under
Government. My successor will not have these
sources of income, & though I consider it my
duty to lay by for him all that is not required
out of my rents, to put & keep the property in
perfect order?"

So simple were his habits, that, notwithstanding the
Duke's great & regular very frequent dinner parties
to Duke ^{and for} ~~from~~ his neighbours, it is impossible
that his household expenditures should ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{been}
even when he entertained royal personages
beside, as he did - George the Fourth, King
William & Queen Adelaide, & the Queen
Princess Consort more than once, he made no
vast preparations, but judged of what would be
agreeable to them by his own simple standard.
When the Queen ^{visited} ~~visited~~ him at ~~Windsor~~ ^{Windsor}, for
instance, the chief preparation he made was
to send for a carpenter to knock out a window
thus giving a new sea-view: this was the sort of
reception the Queen liked: the habits of ~~the~~ ^{the} and
only the greatest, but the best & wisest of her
subjects, were always greatly to her mind.

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Stratfield Say is, as everyone knows, the property
by the nation
presented, to the 'Great Duke' ~~say~~ in recognition of
Waterloo. The pleasant park measures about a
mile by a mile & a half. Its trees are the one distinction
of the estate: there is a mile-long avenue of
Cornish elms, flowering trees, leading up to the
principal entrance of the house; other are old
oaks, very fine, & cedars of Lebanon, over a hundred
feet high, & white thorns, of every past age & size:
the cedars are in the grounds to the north of
the house, where there are also, some very fine
tulip trees. The finest in England, it is said,
stood on Park Chestnut trees raised from Chestnut
Sent to the Duke from America because General
Washington had planted the trees that bore them:
trees raised elsewhere from the chestnuts ~~borne~~
by them. ~~Stratfield say trees would have a pedigree~~
worth speaking of.
is low in the valley

The creamy-walled home lies low in the valley of the Loddon which flows through the park. It is a good Queen Anne home, with stacks of half chimneys skimming out amongst the trees, with the stables, kennel, groom's quarters, &c. all facing the entrance & making a sort of street - in the French taste of the period at which it was built.

Set in the pavement of the large entrance hall
are the two lessattated Glors brought here from
Lilcherder for their better preservation; and here
waves the Duke's banner, which used to hang
over his stall in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; see
you may make acquaintance with Copenhagen,
as he looked in life, there is a ^{fine} ~~fine~~ of Maccaria
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~~the most interesting in that class~~ When asked which of the French marshals he considered the best officer? ^{the Duke} he replied, "Masséna. I always found him when I least desired that he should be."

On the ground floor are a drawing room, dining room, library, & the Duke's own room; all opening into one another forming a sort of gallery, of all of which you can say no more than that they are comfortably furnished; the pictures are not particularly interesting, excepting a half-length of the Duke by Lawrence which hangs in the library: of the books, a great many were presented by their authors, at home & abroad. As for novels, there was no end to them; there was hardly a novel published but he received a copy, & sometimes did it invade your known books. He would not do the Duke favours that not but parcels should be taken in unless they were sent ~~to request~~ with his permission.

Considering that Stratfield Saye is simply a gentleman's residence, by no means striking, with or without, it is amusing to read, - "It was on this amiable peculiarities, that whatever happened took his own possessed full attention in his eyes. Stratfield Saye, a commodious house of the date of Queen Anne, but in an architectural point of view, certainly not an imposing one, he regarded as one of the best in England. His pictures, his library, his furniture, his horses, & his carriages, were all regarded in the same light."

The estate of the Duke is held of the Crown by an indenture: on the 18th of June every year an annual triennial

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Flag is presented at Windsor, this is hung about a
hust of the duke which stands in the guard-chamber.
The trust is by Chantrey, who took occasion to give
the duke a piece of information which struck him, in
consequence, when sitting for sculic, he said "Now, mind
the shape of my head, it's a square head. I know it,
for Chantrey told me so." Blenheim is held
by the Duke of Marlborough on a similar tenure,
the Blenheim flag being presented on the road
of August, & hung above a bust of the Duke of
Marlborough.

Strath does not in this case bear the Scotch sense.
The name should be written, as indeed it is
pronounced, Stratfieldsay, being ^{derived} ~~named~~
like the other two Stratfield, (Stratfield Turgis
& Stratfield Mortimer). From the great-Roman
street which ran through Silchester, to London
on the one hand & Bath on the other; the 'Devils
Highway' it is called. Here it is still in
existence. The family of Sags came in
with the Conquest & they held the estate until
the reign of Richard II. when it passed by
marriage to the Debridg family. In the reign
of Charles I., it was purchased by Sir William
Ritt, & remained in the Ritt family during
the lives of the great Lord Chatham & his greater
son, both of whom spent much of their leisure
here. In 1776, the Stratfieldsay Pitt was created
Lord Rivers, & it was from the Lord Rivers of
1815 that the estate was purchased for the
Great Duke.

length appears to have been covered by the principal
household buildings which formed a quadrangle
round an inner court; three principal pavements
remain. ~~enriched~~ with pictures in mosaic -
the largest being, probably, that of the great triclinium
or banqueting hall. These pavements are no
doubt the most interesting 'find', but besides
these are fragments of Doric columns, remains of bath
& hypocaust, & a curious open fireplace whereon
Sussex logs were some-time burnt. Splendid
as this villa doubtless was, the abode of legate
or propraetor, externally, it probably presented

He & his forefathers have observed that if wood be burnt on a field, & the ashes be mixed with the soil, the probable result is a good harvest. On this simple principle his system of farming is based. When spring comes round, & the leaves begin to appear on the trees, a band of peasants, armed with their hatchets, proceed to some spot in the woods previously fixed upon. Here they begin to make a clearing. This is no easy matter, for tree-felling is hard and tedious work; but they have been brought up to the trade & work with vigour. When they have felled all the trees, great & small, they return to their homes, & think no more about their clearing till the autumn, when they return in order to strip the fallen trees of their branches, to pick out what they want for building or fire-wood, & to pile up the remainder in heaps.

The logs for building or firewood are dragged away by horses as soon as the first fall of snow has made a good slippery road, but ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~piles~~ ^{logs} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~allowed~~ ^{are} ~~to~~ ^{are} ~~remain~~ ^{are} ~~till~~ ^{are} ~~the~~ ^{are} ~~following~~ ^{are} ~~spring~~ ^{are} ~~when~~ ^{are} ~~they~~ ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~stirred~~ ^{are} ~~up~~ ^{are} ~~with~~ ^{are} ~~long~~ ^{are} ~~poles~~ ^{are} ~~&~~ ^{are} ~~ignited~~ ^{are}; ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~flames~~ ^{flames} first appear at several points, & then, with the help of the dry grass & chips, rapidly form a gigantic bonfire such as is never seen in more densely peopled countries. If the fire has done its work properly, the whole of the space is covered with a layer of ashes; & when these have been slightly mixed with soil by means of a light plough, the seed is sown. On the field prepared in this original fashion